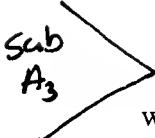


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of maintaining a multidimensional database having layer structure information, the layer structure information representing layer structure of members in the multidimensional database, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 inputting a member;
 - determining whether or not corresponding layer information has been registered for the member in the layer structure information;
 - in the absence of the corresponding information, generating the corresponding layer information according to a predetermined layer rule; and
 - 10 registering the corresponding layer information in the layer structure information.
2. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes rules for character-row converting a name of the member and for generating the layer information.
- 15 *Sub A₃*  3. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 2 wherein the rules are expressed in formal expressions.
- 20 4. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a file and descriptions of a predetermined format, the file containing predetermined rules for generating the corresponding layer information.
- 25 5. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 4 wherein said generating step further comprising accessing the file to obtain the predetermined rules.
- 30 6. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a database and descriptions of a predetermined format, the database containing predetermined rules for generating the corresponding layer information.

7. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 6 wherein said generating step further comprising accessing the database to obtain the predetermined rules.

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8. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 further comprising additional steps of:

determining whether or not the layer structure information exists before said inputting the member; and

10 in the absence of the layer structure information, generating the layer structure information that represents the layer structure of the members in the multidimensional database.

15 9. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined layer rule further comprises a main layer rule and a plurality of sub-layer rules and further comprising additional steps of:

generating the corresponding layer information according to a sequential application of the main layer rule and the plurality of the sub-layer rules; and

determining whether or not the layer information is successfully generated.

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10. The method of maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 1 further comprising additional steps of:

inquiring about the layer information for the member in the layer structure information from a calling unit prior to said inputting step; and

25 returning the layer information to the calling unit subsequent to said registering step.

11. A system for maintaining a multidimensional database, comprising:
an input unit for inputting a member;
30 a dimensional layer information unit for storing dimensional layer information, the dimensional layer information including layer structure information to represent layer

structure of members in the multidimensional database and a layer rule for defining rules to generate the layer structure information; and

a dimensional layer information management unit connected to said input unit and said dimensional layer information unit for managing the dimensional layer

5 information, said dimensional layer information management unit determining whether or not corresponding information has been registered for the member in the layer structure information, said dimensional layer information management unit generating the corresponding layer information according to the layer rule in the absence of the corresponding information and registering the corresponding layer information in the layer

10 structure information.

12. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 11 wherein the layer rule includes rules for character-row converting a name of the member and for generating the layer information.

15 *sub A4* 13. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 12 wherein the rules are expressed in formal expressions.

14. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 20 11 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a file and descriptions of a predetermined format, the file containing predetermined rules for generating the corresponding layer information.

15. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 25 14 wherein said dimensional layer information management unit accessing the file to obtain the predetermined rules.

16. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 11 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a database and descriptions of 30 a predetermined format, the file containing predetermined rules for generating the corresponding layer information.

17. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 16 wherein said dimensional layer information management unit accessing the database to obtain the predetermined rules.

5 18. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 11 wherein said dimensional layer information management unit determining whether or not the layer structure information exists before inputting the member, in the absence of the layer structure information, said dimensional layer information management unit generating the layer structure information that represents the layer structure of the members
10 in the multidimensional database.

15 19. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 11 wherein the predetermined layer rule further comprises a main layer rule and a plurality of sub-layer rules, said dimensional layer information management unit generating the corresponding layer information according to a sequential application of the main layer rule and the plurality of the sub-layer rules, said dimensional layer information management unit determining whether or not the layer structure information is successfully generated.

20 20. The system for maintaining a multidimensional database according to claim 11 wherein said input unit inquiring the layer information for the member to said dimensional layer information management unit, said dimensional layer information management unit returning the layer information to said input unit subsequent to registering the layer information.

25 21. A recording medium for storing computer executable instructions for maintaining a multidimensional database having layer structure information, the layer structure information representing layer structure of members in the multidimensional database, the computer executable instructions performing the steps of:
30 inputting a member;
 determining whether or not corresponding layer information has been registered for the member in the layer structure information;

in the absence of the corresponding information, generating the corresponding layer information according to a predetermined layer rule; and
registering the corresponding layer information in the layer structure information.

5 22. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 21 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes rules for character-
row converting a name of the member and for generating the layer information.

*Sub
A5* 10 23. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 22 wherein the rules are expressed in formal expressions.

15 24. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 21 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a file and
descriptions of a predetermined format, the file containing predetermined rules for
generating the corresponding layer information.

20 25. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 24 wherein said generating step further comprising accessing the file to
obtain the predetermined rules.

25 26. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 21 wherein the predetermined layer rule includes a name of a database
and descriptions of a predetermined format, the database containing predetermined rules
for generating the corresponding layer information.

30 27. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 26 wherein said generating step further comprising accessing the
database to obtain the predetermined rules.

30 28. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions
according to claim 21 further comprising additional steps of:

determining whether or not the layer structure information exists before said inputting the member; and

in the absence of the layer structure information, generating the layer structure information that represents the layer structure of the members in the multidimensional
5 database.

29. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions according to claim 21 wherein the predetermined layer rule further comprises a main layer rule and a plurality of sub-layer rules and further comprising additional steps of:

10 generating the corresponding layer information according to a sequential application of the main layer rule and the plurality of the sub-layer rules; and

determining whether or not the layer information is successfully generated.

30. The recording medium for storing computer executable instructions according to claim 21 further comprising additional steps of:

15 inquiring about the layer information for the member in the layer structure information from a calling unit prior to said inputting step; and

returning the layer information to the calling unit subsequent to said registering step.